

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, RO

SUBJECT:ROMANIAN LECTURE PROGRAM, 1976/77

REF: BUCHAREST 4165

1. WE ARE CONCERNED WITH SEVERAL ASPECTS OF ROMANIAN MUSICIANS' LECTURE EXCHANGE WITH U. OF WASHINGTON AS REPORTED REFTEL. MOST OBVIOUS CONCERN IS MINED RELUCTANCE TO COVER INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL ON GROUNDS THAT MUSICIANS LACK APPROPRIATE ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS. IF EXCHANGE IS TO TAKE PLACE, IT SEEMS ESSENTIAL THAT ROMANIANS PAY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COSTS AS U. OF WASHINGTON ADVISES IT UNABLE TO DO SO. FOR CU/EE'S PART, WE DO NOT BELIEVE WE SHOULD PLACE HIGHER PRIORITY ON THIS EXCHANGE THAN ROMANIANS THEMSELVES DO. CONSEQUENTLY, WE ARE UNWILLING TO GO BEYOND PROVIDING PER DIEM FOR THE JUNIOR MUSICIAN. WE BELIEVE STRONGLY THAT WE SHOULD NOT VIOLATE ESTABLISHED PRINCIPLE THAT SENDING SIDE PAYS, EVEN IN FACE OF PURPORTED EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES RAISED BY ROMANIANS.

2. OUR SECOND CONCERN IS UNCERTAINTY AS TO REAL PURPOSE OF MUSICIANS' STAY IN U.S. FACT THAT ROMANIAN COMMERCIAL PERFORMING ARTS ORGANIZATION ARIA HAS ENTERED THE PICTURE

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SUGGESTS THAT PURPOSE IS NOT PURELY ACADEMIC. AS EMBASSY

AWARE, MUSICIANS OR OTHER GRANTEES CANNOT PERFORM FOR
PROFIT WHILE IN U.S. ON J VISA. ARIA INTEREST IN AMOUNT
OF "SALARY" MUSICIANS WILL RECEIVE SUGGESTS COMMERCIAL
ANGLE. PLEASE CLARIFY ASAP. KISSINGER

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